

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 L-03 DRC-01 /111 W
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R 241612Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

SECSTATE WASHDC 8515

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, PO

SUBJ: PRESS INTEREST IN ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT

REF: LISBON 2716, 3458, 3466 (ALL NOTAL)

SUMMARY: SOUTH AFRICAN CORRESPONDENT HAS QUERIED EMBASSY ON WHETHER CHARGE ABANDONED RECEPTION SOME MONTHS AGO AT WHICH RHODESIAN MISSION CHIEF PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED. CORRESPONDENT ALSO ASKED ABOUT RESCINDED INVITATION TO WIFE OF RHODESIAN MISSION CHIEF FOR AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB TEA. END SUMMARY

1. ANTHONY HOSE, LISBON CORRESPONDENT FOR ARGUS NEWS AGENCY (SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSPAPER GROUP), TELEPHONED EMBASSY SEPT. 21 TO ASK IF IT TRUE, AS ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT HAD ALLEGED, THAT FEW MONTHS AGO CHARGE HAD LEFT PRIVATE PARTY HOSTED BY ROOSEVELT FOR FLORIDA BUSINESSMEN BECAUSE OF PRESENCE AT PARTY OF COL. KNOX, HEAD OF RHODESIAN MISSION IN LISBON. HOSE SAID ROOSEVELT ALSO ALLEGED CHARGE TELEPHONED HIM NEXT DAY AND CRITICIZED HIM FOR INVITING COL. KNOX TO PARTY.

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2. EMBASSY SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT CHARGE LEFT PARTY,

DENIED ALLEGATION CHARGE HAD CRITICIZED ROOSEVELT.
SPOKESMAN SAID CHARGE HAD TELEPHONED ROOSEVELT TO EXPLAIN
REASON WHY CHARGE LEFT PARTY SO ROOSEVELT WOULD NOT
MISCONSTRUE DEPARTURE AS PERSONAL SNUB.

3. COMMENT: ON BACKGROUND SPOKESMAN TOLD HOSE KNOX
HAD BEEN INTRODUCED AS "RHODESIAN AMBASSADOR" WHEREUPON
KNOX TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OCCASION TO MAKE SELF-SERVING
STATEMENT ABOUT RHODESIA. KNOX REFERRED TO ROOSEVELT AS
UNOFFICIAL U.S. AMBASSADOR TO LISBON AND COMMENTED THAT
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO THE AMERICAN CHARGE HE COULDN'T
THINK OF ANY BETTER AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO LISBON THAN
ROOSEVELT. CHARGE LEFT PARTY AT THIS POINT, SUBSEQUENTLY
CALLED ROOSEVELT TO EXPLAIN EMBARRASSING POSITION IN WHICH
HE HAD BEEN PLACED. ROOSEVELT HAD BLAMED VISITING FLORIDIANS
FOR GAFFE. END COMMENT.

4. LATER IN THE DAY, HOSE CALLED EMBASSY AGAIN TO SAY
ROOSEVELT ALLEGED MRS. KNOX WAS DISINVITED TO AMERICAN
WOMEN'S CLUB TEA, TRADITIONALLY HOSTED AT BEGINNING
OF SOCIAL SEASON BY WIFE OF U.S. CHIEF OF MISSION.
SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED.

5. COMMENT: AS IS APPARENT, ROOSEVELTS AND KNOXES VERY
CHUMMY. MRS. ROOSEVELT HAS SUPPORTED MRS. KNOX'S
APPLICATION TO BE ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF AMERICAN WOMEN'S
CLUB. ALL MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP INVITED
TO KICKOFF TEA. WHEN CLUB PRESIDENT REALIZED MRS. KNOX
HAD BEEN INVITED, SHE RESCINDED INVITATION.
MRS. KNOX THEREUPON WITHDREW HER APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE
MEMBERSHIP.

6. HOSE FILED STORY SEPT. 21. APPRECIATE REPORT OF ANY
PICK UP IN SOUTH AFRICAN PAPERS. PLEASE POUCH CLIPPINGS.
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